
UNITING CHURCH



52676 Uniting Pres Ch Drik
Drik 297



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Drik 298

Location

554 WINNAP-NELSON ROAD, DRIK DRIK, GLENELG SHIRE

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Glenelg Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Uniting Church, Drik Drik was built in 1903 as the second Scots Presbyterian Church, replacing a simpler, smaller building dating from the late 1860s which was sold for removal. It is a simple but dignified example of the Gothic Revival style expressing the values and aspirations of the small congregation. The new church was designed by C. P. Wilson, the Shire Engineer at Portland. It was built by James Hardy and Robert Kent, stonemasons from Portland. The carpenter was a local, James Lightbody, the son of the Rev. Lightbody and Rebecca Kittson who were pioneers at Cape Bridgewater. The community, including members of other denominations contributed their volunteer labour, especially with the quarrying and transporting of local bluestone and limestone and with the supply and fixing of joinery. The foundation stone was laid by the Minister, Mr. McGowan in early 1903 and the Rev. Caldwell opened the church in late 1903. A vestry was added in 1932, the same year that the organist, Mrs Rose Kennedy, died bequeathing money for the present organ. Others contributed in the administration and fellowship of the congregation over many years, particularly the Emerson

family as church secretaries. The interior architecture is typical of early Presbyterian Churches, and in many ways is as important as the exterior. Internally, there are also a range of fixtures, such as pews, an altar and a range of memorials. The building remains in excellent condition and retains an excellent degree of integrity. It is surrounded by many substantial exotic trees, including two flanking Phoenix canariensis (Canary Island) palms, which are important for the character of the place. The church continues to be used on a limited basis.

How is it Significant?

The Drik Drik Uniting Church is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Drik Drik and the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Drik Drik Uniting Church is of historical significance as an example of the consolidation of Presbyterian faith in the Drik Drik area from the 1900s. The church is of social significance to the community of the Bridgewater area as the focus for Presbyterians who settled in the area in the 1960s. It is of architectural significance for both its exterior and interior architecture as a good example of the simple Gothic Revival style, used to express religious values. It is of further significance for the range of memorials, and as a comparison with the former Methodist Church at Drik Drik. The architecture and setting of the building are enhanced by the mature exotic trees.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002; Glenelg - Glenelg Heritage Study Stage Two (a), Heritage Matters, 2006;
Construction dates	1903,
Other Names	SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
Hermes Number	52676
Property Number	

Usage/Former Usage

Church

Physical Description 1

The building is a small traditional church of three bays in the Primitive Gothic Revival style with a plan 10.6m x 6.5m. The walls are coursed bluestone with rendered sandstone quoins, now painted white. The gables have decorative tie-beams at mid-height with king posts extending as distinctive finials. Above the timber front door, which is of two leaves of ledge and brace construction within a Gothic arch, there is a plaque with the date of construction (1903). The lancet windows in the side walls, also with rendered quoins, are subdivided by fine glazing bars. There is an off-set vestry at the rear which is rendered but probably also of bluestone construction. The interior of the church has a range of memorials as well as standard elements such as pews and an altar. The internal architecture of the church is significant for the values which it expresses. The church is set within a substantial mature garden including two flanking Phoenix canariensis (Canary Island) palms, several oaks and other exotic trees. A low masonry fence and separates the church from the now by-passed road.

Physical Conditions

Excellent

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

8.8 Remembering the fallen

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>